



**Utah Fuel Company**  
A SUBSIDIARY OF THE COASTAL CORPORATION

002/005 #2  
**RECEIVED**  
OCT 17 1990

October 14, 1990

The Energy People

DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING

0069

Ira Hatch, District Ranger  
Manti-LaSal National Forest  
599 W. Price River Drive  
Price, Utah 84501

Dear <sup>Ira</sup>Ranger Hatch:

We appreciate you and some of your staff visiting the minesite on September 13th to look over some of our operational concerns.

During that visit one of the concerns that we discussed was the permit requirement to protect the slopes in the stacking tube area. We originally proposed to protect those slopes by shotcreting them. As discussed with you on September 13th, we have been re-evaluating this proposal and would like to now request to not be required to shotcrete these slopes at this time.

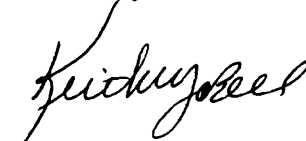
We are making this request based on the following facts:

1. We have been stacking and recovering coal against these slopes for the past several years and have not caused any additional damage to the slopes as a result of these activities.
2. We have had several shotcrete contractors visit the site and make proposals to us for shotcreting these slopes. All of them are willing to shotcrete the slopes; however, all of them expressed concern about the success of the job. Due to the steepness and roughness of the slopes, they have serious doubt as to the longevity of the shotcrete, even without heavy machinery working in close proximity to it. They also feel there is a good chance of failure of the shotcrete, due to the possibility of natural sub-surface water getting underneath the shotcrete.
3. We feel that there is the possibility of the shotcrete giving a false sense of security to the machine operators that they can't damage the slopes.

We would like to propose that we protect the slopes through our operational procedures. We would do this by only allowing trained operators to operate machinery on the coal pile. These selected operators would be trained in the importance to both you and us of protecting these slopes. When they are recovering coal they would leave an adequate layer of coal on the slopes so as not to jeopardize the native material on the slopes. These operators will be fully trained in safety procedures, machine operation, and environmental concerns. We would also propose that we monitor these slopes, and if a problem of adequately protecting these surfaces occurred, that we would take the necessary action to protect these slopes. We are now and will continue to be committed to adequately protect the slopes.

If you need any additional information, please contact us.

Sincerely,



For Glen A. Zumwalt  
Vice President/General Manager

GAZ:KZ:lm

xc: Daron Haddock, DOGM